

## MNSW Delegates Meeting 16th December 2021

### PCRA Delegate's Report

Warren Reynolds Club Secretary and David Morrissey Club Delegate, were in attendance at the Blacktown Workers club.

Delegate Meetings since July have been Zoomed and this was the first in person. MNSW aims to offer both in person and full e-participation in the future. Note the attendance was around 50, i.e. a fraction of the full Members' Council. For such a crucial meeting this was disappointing. Nonetheless we are pleased to document some highlights for PCRA members.

### Election of New Board & Closure of Interim Board

The Interim Board was appointed to clean up the mess left by the previous board and get a new Board elected. They were assisted by MA with a selection process designed to pull in people with some connection to motorcycles but above all a proven capacity to offer big end of town Board performance. MA's team sought expressions of interest, then filtered the 48 on offer down to 12, interviewed them and cut to a short for the 5 positions. Member clubs had the option of voting for those in this group of 5 or for any person who nominated in the manner required. In the end 4 of the 5 were elected plus popular ex-CEO, the original whistleblower on the previous committee, who had been excluded from recommendations but not from standing, for reasons not made clear. Member clubs rectified this unhappy situation by giving Dave Cooke - a PCRA Member- the highest vote, perhaps in response to the all-too-many backroom deals done by previous committees!

NOTE: it is of some concern that many Member organisations chose not to vote at all. Why is this? The new committee will need to address governance 'on the ground' as well as on paper. Is there a lack of trust? Lack of interest? Either way it warrants rebuilding.

Initial long selection of 12	Final 5 Recommended	People's choice
Annaleisse Cawood Madeline Bowditch Darren Gosling Chelsea Cheney Hugh Howarth Richard Nedov Ben Felton Ezio Forcella Kate Barnet John Condon David Morrissey Tim Thatcher	Annaleisse Cawood - Stay Upright  Madeline Bowditch - Dirt racing and street bikes. Consultant across governance and leadership.  Darren Gosling - Oyster Bay MCC, minibikes, multiple director roles.  Chelsea Cheney - MX race official, Mgr. Engineering Australia Customers  Hugh Howarth - Off-road events. Diverse leadership roles	Annaleisse Cawood  Madeline Bowditch  Darren Gosling  Chelsea Cheney  David Cooke - Member PCRA and Nowra. Ex MNSW CEO. Multiple Senior Executive positions.

The new committee is now official and will have both incoming expertise and some pretty astute corporate memory! Watch this space!

### **A new CEO?**

The Interim Committee had advertised for a new CEO. Apparently it received many terrific applicants. It has moved on to narrow down to two candidates and seemed quite ready to offer the job to one depending on a final interview. Members from the floor raised the objection that this is clearly a role for the incoming committee and actual appointment is beyond the remit of the interim committee. Accordingly, no appointment shall be made until the new committee can review the process and its outcomes to date, and then decide what action to take. Fair enough... its the new committee will have the honour of working with the new CEO!

### **Race Pace legal case settled**

The previous Board had sought to restrict the trading of Race Pace by refusing to sanction more than a certain number of their events. Some thought this was to enable MNSW services to better compete. Either way, they sued MNSW for seeking to restrict their trade, which it is not entitled to do. Legal advice was MNSW was likely to lose the case with costs and be up for most of \$500k plus all costs! Why this was thought to be worthy of a risky and costly legal action remains a mystery.

The interim committee has reported reaching an out-of-court settlement of \$245k plus MNSW legal costs yet to be determined, MNSW by-laws covering this area will be amended so as not to repeat the possible offence against Free Trade laws.

### **Challenge to licencing business 'given' to MA.**

The Interim Board reported that discussions had been held towards MNSW handing over race licencing to MA. Currently PCRA members pay annual fees to MNSW with the bulk of the fee going to the national body to cover insurance etc etc. At the same time the net is MNSW's single biggest income item. MA has been soaking up this businesses across states on the grounds it is more cost-effective if centralised. The counter-argument is that it remains a source of income to the state body as well as a point of liaison with members *if efficiently run*.

The Interim board was challenged on three grounds. Firstly, some senior/life members pointed out that the cited annual income of \$400k to MNSW was at odds with previously published Financials which showed an income of \$1m. They cannot both be right and if the annual books are wrong then we have a serious problem both legally and financially. If they are right then the deal, based on annualised average data including Covid years is unsound. Secondly, the arguments that this activity was both a drag on MNSW staff time and a benefit for member liaison are 1) contradictory and 2) fixable by better technology as per any click and pay program. Thirdly, it was put to the Interim Board that this matter was properly a matter for the newly elected committee and beyond the remit of the interim committee.

The upshot was agreement that work by the Interim Board on this matter was 1) a advisory but not final, 2) for the new Board to finalise and 3) should be based on a review of assumptions and calculations. This may surprise members who have already been advised on Nov 29 by MA that

their National Licensing team "will now process [licence] enquiries for New South Wales based riding, media and crew licence holders from December 1, 2021."

### **Constitutional Review**

The Interim Board has established a panel of senior MNSW members to look at constitutional changes that will benefit the organisation for the future. Once they have reached agreement on a set of proposed changes they will float their draft for comment, and run a workshop on the proposed changes. Note it takes a majority of 75% of those who are vote to make changes.

### **Conclusion**

Those attending the Delegates Meeting thanked the Interim Committee of Kate Peck, Bob McGlinchy and Keith Davies for all the work they had done to clear the decks and get to a new committee. Ditto the hardworked staff who had made this possible.

The Delegates Meetings are in future to be broadcast so that delegates can log in to hear what is going on, and can put up their hand to ask a question or have a say at any point. This was meant to trial at this meeting but for unexplained reasons did not go ahead.

Doubtless the better practices now clearly underway will address this and other opportunities for better governance and practicality for MNSW.

Season's Greetings to all and we look forward to a better 2022!

David Morrissey

Post Classic Racing Association Delegate